

Program Notice

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4-8-02

SOFT WHITE WHEAT PROTEIN CALIBRATION ADJUSTMENT

1. SUMMARY

Effective May 1, 2002, the Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) will adjust the official Soft White Wheat (SWH) protein calibration for official near-infrared transmittance (NIRT) instruments by issuing new Standard Reference Sample baseline values and implementing two new Standard Reference Samples.

2. BACKGROUND

FGIS performs annual reviews of wheat protein calibrations to measure the performance of NIRT instruments compared to the standard reference method, Combustion Nitrogen Analyzer (CNA). In May 1999, a new standard slope was issued for the current SWH calibration. The periodic adjustment of calibrations provides the grain industry with the best possible information from which to determine end-product yield from recent wheat harvests.

FGIS recently completed a review of the SWH calibration for the NIRT instruments. Based on the results of the review, FGIS determined that the SWH calibration needs a bias adjustment to more closely align it with the CNA. The bias adjustment was made using SWH samples in the 7.9 – 12.8 percent protein range that are representative of the past several crop years.

3. IMPLEMENTATION

FGIS will provide new baseline values for use with three of the existing Standard Reference Samples and will implement two new Standard Reference Samples. The samples and revised baseline values will be issued to all SWH official inspection sites.

4. ANTICIPATED EFFECT

The effect of the calibration adjustment will be to more closely align the official NIRT protein measurements with the CNA reference method, based on a system-wide average, for SWH wheat. The specific effect of the adjustment will be to lower the protein result by 0.10 percent across the full protein range.

5. QUESTIONS

Direct any questions to the Policies and Procedures Branch at (202) 720-0224.

/s/ John Giler

David Orr, Director
Field Management Division